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Latta's fentanyl bill wins big

Moves to the Senate

By LOU WILIN

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Legislation led by U.S. Rep. Bob Latta and a Virginia lawmaker to fight the surge in fentanyl deaths was approved by the U.S. House Thursday by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote.

The bill would make permanent fentanyl's classification as a Schedule 1 drug — meaning it has no accepted medical use and involves a high risk of abuse — alongside heroin, LSD, ecstasy and others. It would strengthen law enforcement's ability to prosecute fentanyl traffickers, said U.S. Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Virginia. The bill now heads to the Senate for passage. It is supported by the Biden administration.

Fentanyl is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. Just a few milligrams, an amount small enough to fit inside the ear of Lincoln on a penny, can be lethal. Illicit fentanyl substances killed over 5,000 Ohioans and 70,000 Americans in 2021.

In 2021, 77% of teen deaths were attributed to an illicit fentanyl poisoning and it is now the No. 1 cause of death in adults 18 to 49 (years old), said Latta, R-Bowling Green, in a speech on the House floor. "This isn't about criminal justice reform. This is about justice for the victims of fentanyl poisoning. Cartels are killing our citizens for 10 cents ... That's how much it costs to make a pill in Mexico that's fentanyl-laced."

If fentanyl's classification as a Schedule 1 drug

See BILL, 3A

OHIO LOTTERY

PICK 3
Night 799
Day 561

PICK 4

Mains is new FSA director

By VICKI JOHNSON

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In her first few months as county executive director for Seneca County's USDA Farm Service Agency office, Madi Mains has been getting to know the community.

A native of Arlington, Mains lives in Findlay and has been leading the local office since January.

Since then, she said she's been introducing herself to the community and building relationships.

"I'm trying to reach out as much as I can," she said. "Trying to connect with the farmers in any way I can."

She and staff members have been adjusting to each other.

"They're a great staff," she said. Some new faces have replaced some long-time staff members who retired, but some veterans remain.

Mains said she sees her job as assisting where she's

needed doing everyday business and handling the "hard stuff" such as appeals and unhappy people.

"We just serve the producers, actually," she said. "It's anything I can do to help the farmers."

Mains said she has a farm background, and has shown hogs for most of her life while friends and other family members are grain farmers.

"We had a quarantine barn with

breeding stock, and I helped with that," she said. The farm also handled other aspects of raising hogs.

Before deciding to train as a CED, she was a program technician for six years.

After graduating from Arlington High School in 2014, she studied ag business at the University of Northwestern Ohio, graduating with an associate's and then a bachelor's degree in ag business in 2018.

See MAINS, 3A



Mains



KAYLA TREVINO / The Advertiser-Tribune

Pre-k field day

Lincoln Pre-K students enjoy their field day on their last day of school Thursday.



Latta

NATIONAL EMS WEEK

Gary Amlin

Tiffin Fire/Rescue

By KAYLA TREVINO

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In 1974, President Gerald Ford designated the third week in May as EMS Week to honor EMS clinicians and the important work they do in our nation's communities, according to ems.gov. National EMS Week 2023 — May 21-27 — marks our 49th year of this special week set aside to celebrate the EMS profession and its dedicated providers.

The A-T spoke with Gary Amlin of Tiffin Fire/Rescue Division in honor of National EMS Week.

Amlin was born and raised in Tiffin. He graduated from Tiffin-Columbian in 1989 and attended Heidelberg University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in sports medicine.

He then attended Sentinel for EMS and Fire Service training and joined Tiffin Fire/Rescue Division in January 1998.

"I enjoy the overall atmosphere and crew," Amlin told the A-T. "I enjoy everything we do. It's not the same every day and we get to help the community."

"Growing up, I always watched the show 'Emergency,'" he said about deciding on his career. "The dad of a neighborhood friend was a firefighter and we used to come to visit the station."

Amlin said he had heard the department was hiring and he

came and took a test. Initially, he failed. So, he came back after receiving training, passed and has been at the department ever since.

"You don't get rich doing this job," he said. "At the end of the day, it's a great feeling to know that you made a difference. The department is like one big family."

Amlin also explained that he enjoys his job because there is no daily routine, each day is different.

See Page 4A for more of our continuing EMS Week Spotlight, featuring Bryan Huffman of Seneca County EMS.



GARY AMLIN

Provided photo